

*Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116*  
*Expedited Procedure – Technology Center Art Unit 1657*

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the abstract on page 35 with the following new abstract:

The present invention relates to a stable calibrators and controls that can be used liquid calibrator or control for use in ligand-binding assays wherein the calibrator or control comprises at least one human synthetic natriuretic peptide and has a pH of from about 4.0 to about 6.5 and remains stable when stored at temperatures of from about 2 to about 8°C for a period of about twelve months.